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[a] 545

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2.00 p.m. to 2.30 p.m. Every 15 minutes.  
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5.30 p.m. to 6.00 p.m. Every 10 minutes.  
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1.30 p.m. to 2.00 p.m. Every 10 minutes.  
2.00 p.m. to 2.30 p.m. Every 15 minutes.  
2.30 p.m. to 3.00 p.m. Every 10 minutes.  
3.00 p.m. to 3.30 p.m. Every 15 minutes.  
3.30 p.m. to 4.00 p.m. Every 10 minutes.  
4.00 p.m. to 4.30 p.m. Every 15 minutes.  
4.30 p.m. to 5.00 p.m. Every 10 minutes.  
5.00 p.m. to 5.30 p.m. Every 15 minutes.  
5.30 p.m. to 6.00 p.m. Every 10 minutes.  
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Hongkong, 14th November, 1902. [a] 536

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**NAUTICAL ALMANACK 1903.** [a] 535

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IS GOOD ENOUGH FOR MOST PEOPLE. BELOW ARE A FEW THAT STILL

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Hongkong, 6th September, 1902. [a] 2359

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TELEPHONE 232.

Hongkong, 21st June 1901. [a] 121

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will find in our stocks a TASTEFUL,

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ESTABLISHED A.D. 1811.

possibility of temporary failure of the Navy to keep the Channel clear." This simply means that Mr. Brodric wants to direct money from Naval purposes to the Army. It is our duty to keep our fleet in such a state of strength and preparedness that there shall never be any question of our ability to keep the Channel clear. This is a vital condition, and the condition on which our existence as an Empire depends. Sea power all over the world is the first and most vital condition of the continued existence of the British Empire. Mr. Brodric may indulge in scornful remarks on what he is pleased to consider the extreme naval school. If there is such a school, let himself and his colleagues expose and tear to shreds its mistaken views and show that the Government is solely guided by the light of reason, not by party traditions.

One of the first needs of Imperial defence is an efficient Intelligence branch, a department for the Navy. How do we stand? There are fifteen officers employed in the Intelligence Department of the British Navy and the cost of the Department is £19,629 per annum. The last Naval Estimates amounted to over £32,000,000. The Intelligence Department of the German Navy employs eighteen officers and the total estimated expenditure for the current year on the German Navy is a little over £10,000,000 sterling. That is to say that Germany employs more brains in the proportion of eighteen to fourteen for Intelligence purposes than we do, though our requirements are infinitely greater. It is possible that the chess-playing tendencies of the Treasury may be the cause; if not that, what can it be? Practical naval officers at the Admiralty, who know what accurate Intelligence means, would not be likely to send off or curtail the supply which money can procure, unless pressure was exercised from somewhere.

The pages of *Naval Administration 1827 to 1892*, by Sir JOHN HENRY BRIGGS, who was for many years Chief Clerk of the Admiralty, throw a curious light on the inner working of the Admiralty which will no doubt be duly noted by students of naval defence. History clearly indicates that for the last two hundred years Great Britain has always exhibited an astonishing unrelenting for war, though constantly involved in hostilities. The late Boer war has accentuated the fact with regard to the

Army. Heaven help us if the same should prove true of the Navy! The great consolation brought out by the war is that the spirit of the race has not degenerated, raw recruits and youthful subalterns having exhibited the most splendid courage under all circumstances, so that we may be certain our raw material is of the first quality, only lacking training and instruction on national lines. Fortunately there is no divergence of opinion between the responsible officers of the Navy and the Army as to the respective duties of each service in the matter of defence. The great stumbling block is the War Office, with its benumbing traditions and out-of-date procedure, its commissions and committees of enquiry that never settle anything, and its carefully built up possibility of fooling Parliament and the public on any given subject by red tape and circumlocution. Take the present question as a recent instance, or our own Jubilee Road—a small matter, but significant. No blame can be attached to individuals, for every soldier can plead the first canon of Military discipline: "Orders must be obeyed!"—under all circumstances. Besides, the blame does not rest with the soldier element so much as with the traditions of party government and a procedure in an age and state of society now happily numbered among the things that were. Still the cumbersome War Office remains with its lamentable tale of failure and unreadiness. Let us hope that the efforts now being made will result in placing it on an up-to-date footing, and that never again will it have to bear the reproach of such a thing as the famous telegram "Unaccounted men preferred."

A writer in the *Quarterly Review* for August has remarked that the defects which the South African War has shown to have existed in the Army are all found to a great degree in the Navy and that our Naval organisation exhibits the same want of clearly defined responsibility as our Military, if indeed it be not actually worse. There is no General Staff in which power and responsibility go hand in hand; there is, however, the same vicious arrangement of an Intelligence Department divorced from authority and starved. Every precaution, indeed, seems to have been taken to prevent its views reaching the Cabinet. The head of the Department communicates them to the First Sea Lord, the First Lord, and the First Lord, who has no expert knowledge, in turn places them, if he feels so disposed, before the Prime Minister. Now that sort of thing is not conducive to Imperial defence and, if true, should be remedied at once—a matter no doubt easier said than

done. But we have Admiral Lord CHARLES BEREAFORD, Captain PERRY SCOTT, and a few more like them coming on, and these patriotic men must and will be backed up by the people in their efforts to set matters right, in spite of all official snubs and cold shouldering. All honour to His Majesty the King who has shown very conclusively what he thinks of such men as Captain Perry Scott.

One of the greatest misfortunes of the naval profession is the diversity of opinion which prevails in the higher ranks on almost every possible subject. At the United Service Institution in an open discussion it is hardly possible for one distinguished naval officer to propound anything without being flatly contradicted by another and no reasonable argument put forward; and we have heard old salts give as the reason an old saying of seamen, "different ships different fashions," which probably does not apply to the routine which is the same in all British men-of-war, but to the different train of thought engendered by the leading minds in different vessels. Lord CHARLES BEREAFORD resigned his seat on the Admiralty Board on the question of the strength of the fleet and the determined opposition he encountered to his proposal for proper war organisation, and time has always proved his views correct so far.

The Navy League has been attacked by German journals and speakers on the charge that it is creating ill-will between Germany and England. "The Navy League as a matter of fact has never sought to accentuate differences between England and her neighbours, but simply to set forth facts as they are, and there is now no doubt that whatever may be the personal inclinations of the German Emperor and his Government, the disposition of the German people is exceedingly hostile to England; they have in fact thrown down the glove to us, to judge by Mr. E. T. MEXER's pamphlet entitled *Los Von England* ("Enough of England"), at which most people will laugh as not representing real German feeling; but the warning will not be forgotten or forgotten because the writer is often incorrect and given to wild exaggeration. Nothing more damaging to the good feeling between the two nations has been written for years. Still it furnishes another reason for a proper system of Imperial defence and for the establishment of a naval dockyard on the North-Eastern coast and the equipment of a permanent North Sea squadron. Doubtless our statesmen have a very fair appreciation of the situation of Germany like a nut between the crackers and will play the cards accordingly; but forwardness is forewarned, and we can never tell what complications may arise.

The only cases of communicable disease reported in the Colony last week were two of enteric fever—one European and one Chinese.

The visitors to the City Hall Library and Museum last week were 241 non-Chinese and 137 Chinese to the former, and 47 non-Chinese and 2,091 Chinese to the latter institution.

A football match took place at the Happy Valley last evening between the H.K.F.C. and the Argonauts. The Club team was of a very "scratch" composition, and could not hold the Argonauts, who won by five goals to nil.

The Canadian Department of Agriculture has in preparation an exhibit for the Osaka Exhibition next March. The Japanese Government has set aside a separate building for Canada's exhibitors, while exhibits from other countries will be shown in what is called the foreign sample building.

Chevalier P. Volpelli, the Italian Consul-General, has been delegated by the Italian Government to the forthcoming Oriental Congress at Hanoi which is to be held in connection with the Hanoi Exposition. Chevalier Volpelli says a good deal of Tonkin in 1885, during the campaign, and his visit will thus have additional personal interest.

The Superintendence of the Italian Consulate in Hongkong has been delegated by the Italian Government to the forthcoming Oriental Congress at Hanoi which is to be held in connection with the Hanoi Exposition. Chevalier Volpelli says a good deal of Tonkin in 1885, during the campaign, and his visit will thus have additional personal interest.

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The Pongau Club has drafted a programme for its next race meeting on the 29th and 31st January and 2nd February, with seven events on each day.

Kobe papers contain accounts of the organ recital at All Saints', Kobe, on the 13th inst., by Mr. George Grimble, who returned to Hongkong with his family yesterday.

General Fukushima, the distinguished Japanese officer who has so long been in hospital at Umballa, is able to travel again. He was to leave Bombay with his staff on the 7th inst.

The paper notes ordered from the Japanese Government Printing Bureau by Viceroy Yuan Shikai, having been printed, Mr. Li Fang-nan, formerly the Chinese Consul at Kobe, and four other Chinese officials, who were commissioned to take delivery of the notes, have proceeded to Tokyo. The value of the notes is 2,000,000 yen and they are intended for circulation in the province of Chihli.

In their efforts to find a suitable means of burning oil-fuel in the furnaces of warships the British Admiralty have arrived at results very similar to those obtained in this direction by the U.S. Navy Board. So far the British experiments have been confined to torpedo craft. Preparations have now been made for trials on a much more important scale. When the Channel Squadron returns to English ports about a month hence the battleships *Hans* and *Hannibal* and one of the first-class cruisers are to be adapted for the consumption of liquid fuel. The necessary machinery has already been made in the dockyard, and is to be fitted to the after-burners of each ship. As a result of the experiments made in the destroyer *Savoy*, the Admiralty have decided in the larger vessels to burn the oil by spraying it on a bed of coal.

A correspondent who signs after his name "Captain, 3rd Battalion Yorks," writes to the *Times* with reference to Mr. Hall Caine's play *The Eternal City*. "We take one passage from a vigorous letter:—To hear the Pope insulted is annoying, but to see him represented as a delinquent cannot be tolerated. What would the feelings of an English Churchman if the Archbishop of Canterbury was introduced as comic relief in a *Drury Lane* melodrama? What would the Turkish Ambassador think if the Sheikh-ul-Islam was portrayed by Mr. Duff Lane in a patter-song at the London Pavilion? How would a Nonconformist appreciate a clowning representation of a Methodist Conference on the savants of the London Hippodrome? I think the feelings of those gentlemen would be identical with those of any Roman Catholic who may see Pope Pius X. in *The Eternal City* at His Majesty's."

The *London and China Express* of the 24th ult. writes:—An intelligent Japanese observer happened to be in the Strangers' Gallery of the House of Commons on the opening day (16th inst.) of the reassembling of Parliament, and was a witness of the threatening attitude assumed by Mr. O'Donnell towards Mr. Balfour. What appeared to strike him most was the extreme calm, which was unaltered, of the Premier, and especially the fact that no one offered physical violence to Mr. O'Donnell for his behaviour. Had such an incident occurred in Japan, our informant points out, the unlucky wight (Mr. O'Donnell) would have met with severe treatment, as some one, or more, would have certainly lunched themselves at him. It would have been too much for the old Samurai spirit that pervades many of the members of the Japanese Diet to have remained quietly seated whilst Mr. O'Donnell threatened force to the Leader of the House.

The semi-official *North German Gazette* published on the 21st ult. the following note on the position of the European troops in Shanghai:—"The question of the evacuation of Shanghai has, in references to the tranquility now prevailing in the Yangtze basin, again come under the consideration of the Powers concerned. It is proposed, on one side, that the evacuation shall take place with the proviso—first, that it shall be carried out at the same time and in the same proportion by all the parties concerned on the basis of the former agreement; secondly, that subsequent occupation of Shanghai by one Power should give other Powers a similar right. "In order to provide against the latter eventuality and its difficulties as far as possible, the German Government has proposed in amplification of the second point, that China should expressly bind herself not to concede to any Power special military or any other advantages on the Yangtze which conflict with the principle of the open door. The Chinese Government has already declared its willingness to comply with these conditions."

With regard to the Japanese House-an arbitration question, Messrs. Motono and Renault are still unable to agree. Mr. Motono says the *Niroku Shingo*, (translated by the *Japan Mail*) claims that as incomparably the largest interests involved are Anglo-Saxon, and as the main part of the documents will be in English, an English-speaking judicial expert should be selected. He therefore advanced the name of Mr. Justice Fuller, of the United States Supreme Court, as his first choice. Mr. Renault, however, is equally insistent that a Russian or a German should be appointed. In the event of Mr. Motono and Mr. Renault failing to agree about Justice Fuller, the *Niroku* alleges that Mr. Motono will probably be instructed to propose Lord Alverstone, Lord Chief Justice of England. Japan's action in the matter may justly be applauded by English-speaking peoples. It seems to the *Japan Mail*—the view will certainly find general endorsement—that in common fairness the duties of umpire should be entrusted to an Anglo-Saxon judicial expert. According to present appearance, however, the choice will ultimately rest with the King of Sweden.

A telegram dated Sinala, November 6, says:—In Cawnpore City last week only 574 plague deaths occurred, and in the Bombay Presidency only 3,209, thus showing a reduction of 208 and 1,820 respectively.

M. Blanchet, the Director of the Messageries Fluviales Co. and President of the Saigon Chamber of Commerce, died at Saigon on October 28th. He was 48 years of age and a Chevalier of the Legion of Honour.

There is a great demand at Calcutta for Chinese carpenters for Dohi, who are offered five rupees a day and travelling expenses. But they are reluctant to go, as sickness has broken out among those already there.

Quite a sensation was caused in Singapore the other day by reason of an extraordinary rumour to the effect that a telegram had been received from Shanghai stating that the French troops had been ordered to evacuate the town in six hours, or war would be declared against France.

The Crown Prince of Siam, who arrived in New York on the 21st ult., stated that there was no foundation for the report that he was about to become engaged to an American lady. This story is apparently told of every Royal visitor to the United States now.

Major Wool has claimed 5,000 yen under his insurance policy for damage to his furniture on the occasion of the recent fire at Tokyo, mentioned in our issue of Saturday. The claim has been rejected, and developments are awaited with interest.

A telegram to Manila, dated New York, November 19, says:—The War Department has directed that an investigation be made into the facts of the death of the Augustinian friar at Manila, Pany, in 1900. It has been alleged that he was killed by the water-cannon but there is nothing to substantiate the allegation. Nevertheless the Department desires a full report on the matter. The *Cablenews* comments:—In fact in the case, as investigation showed, that the Padre died of heart disease and was, respectfully intimated in the churchyard at Panto Bay. While it was known to the American authorities that he was strongly anti-American, he had not been molested in any way. The insurrectionary element in Pany thought to use his death, from natural causes, to the detriment of the American authorities; but failed, as the facts in the case were well known to the natives of the section. The war was mentioned in the course of the General Court-martial but was not seriously considered. It is presumed that the investigation by the War Department is in pursuance of its manifest policy of being prepared to answer any charges that may be brought against the Army immediately and with a presentation of the full facts in each case.

The *Kobe Chronicle* writes:—The *Hanbury* case has apparently attracted the attention of the Minister for Justice. We notice that Baron Kiyoura, in an interview reported in the *Kokumin*, has pointed out that the existing Shipping Law provides that a vessel entering a port not open to foreign trade without obtaining permission from the authorities is liable to a fine ranging from 200 yen to 2,000 yen, the vessel in addition being confiscated. As Baron Kiyoura remarks: this provision of the law was intended to prevent smuggling, while, as one reader will be aware, it was applied in the case of the *Hanbury* to a launch entering a port in distress. Baron Kiyoura says that as the provision was intended for the prevention of smuggling it is unjust that it should be applied to a yacht or boat without cargo that may enter such a port. He thinks it would be better if more latitude were given Courts in such cases of alleged infraction of the law, and the provision amended so that it might be brought more into consonance with justice. We understand that it is probable that the Minister of the Communications will bring in a Bill during the next Session of the Diet with the object of altering this law and with a view to making it apply only in cases where an attempt to smuggle is proved. The *Hanbury* case will thus at least have done some good in drawing attention to a defect in law which ought to be remedied; but it has been at the outlay of considerable expenditure in legal costs, and the case is not even yet at an end.

## THE ILLEGAL OPIUM FARM.

We learn from Meeno that the prepared opium tax stations in the vicinity of the port were removed a few days ago.

## PROPOSED S. GEORGE'S BALL.

A meeting of subscribers is called for this day at the City Hall at 5.15 p.m. We understand the lists in circulation have been signed by only some 160 Englishmen, so that so far the prospects of a ball are anything but bright.

## LAUNCH SUNK.

Information has been received that on Saturday morning last the small 60-ton French steamer *Edair* collided with and sank the steam-launch *Ho Keng* at Shung Wui, in Chinese waters, the crew of the launch were saved by the *Edair*, with the exception of one native, who is reported missing.

## FALL FROM A FERRY-LAUNCH.

On Sunday night, as one of the Yau-mai ferry-launches was crossing the harbour from Hongkong, a Chinese passenger overbalanced and fell into the water in the man-of-war anchorage off Kowloon. He raised cries for help, and a boat from the destroyer *Handy* was quickly launched and saved the man from drowning.

## TELEGRAMS.

"DAILY PRESS" SERVICE.

## GENERAL NEWS.

[FROM OUR CORRESPONDENT.]

SHANGHAI, 24th November, 7.15 p.m.

## WRECK OF A FRENCH STEAMER.

The French steamer *Euseigne Hour*, 250 tons, was wrecked on Friday between Chefoo and Weihaiwei. The passengers and crew were saved; mails partly lost.

## REUTERS' SERVICE.

LONDON, 22nd November.

## MR. CHAMBERLAIN'S TOUR.

It is reported that Mr. Chamberlain will visit Cairo for a day or two, also Aden and Mombasa, and further that he intends to take a short trip on the Uganda railway.

## SALVAGE OF THE S.S. "PHRA NANG."

ARRIVAL IN HONGKONG.

The N.D.L.s. *Machine* which left here on the 14th inst., with a salvage party on board to save the N.D.L.s. *Phra Nang* that had gone ashore on the Paracels, returned to Hongkong yesterday with the damaged steamer in tow.

On the salving steamer were Captain Krebs, marine superintendent of the North German Lloyd; Mr. J. Watt Jamason, of the London Salvage Association; and Mr. T. G. Doyle, the chief diver. Heavy pumping and other apparatus was taken aboard. The *Machine* arrived at the Paracels on the 16th inst. at 1 p.m. and found the *Phra Nang* aground on a coral reef in Priton Island, the south-western island of the group. On account of strong wind and current great difficulty was experienced in getting along the *Phra Nang*, her fore part being aground and the stern afloat in deep water. Examination showed that the fore-hold was full of water and No. 2 hold making water. She had then been on the reef for 16 days. The captain, officers and the crew were on board all that time.

A start was at once made with the work of salvaging. Centrifugal pumps were put on board the stranded vessel, a 12in. and 10in. in the fore-hold and a 10in. in No. 2 hold. Her engines were got ready and the cargo was transferred to the *Machine*. Mr. Doyle tried to examine the ship's bottom but was unsuccessful as it was impeded too deeply in the coral. The following day at 5 o'clock the pumps were at work and at 5 p.m. on the 18th, Captain Krebs decided to attempt to get the *Phra Nang* off as it was apparent the pumps had command of the water. The *Machine* began towing and the other worked her engines as well. The vessel refused to budge for some time and at one point the *Machine* came near to going ashore herself and had to cast off the cables about 8 p.m. The *Phra Nang* was loosened by the force, however, and steamed ahead at 9 p.m. after her own engines had been working astern but ahead alternately for the whole time. On account of a heavy N.E. monsoon prevailing it was decided not to go to Hongkong direct, but to make for Tonkin Bay, Annam, 180 miles distant. Both vessels steamed slowly and arrived there on the 20th. Here the *Machine* gave supplies of victual and coal to the *Phra Nang* and Mr. Doyle made a thorough inspection of the bottom finding rivets gone and leadings started; these were blocked up temporarily. On the 22nd the vessels left for Hongkong and got here yesterday at 1 p.m. Great credit is due to all concerned for the expedition and clever manner in which the salvage was accomplished.

The *Phra Nang* will go into dock tomorrow.

## THE CIRCUS.

A complimentary ben fit was given to the clown "Ning" at Warren's Circus intervening, and as there was a large attendance, the benefit should be a successful financially. It is undoubtedly was from the point of view of the audience. In addition to the usual programme, the Francis Brothers gave a musical act.

Tonight Major-General Gascoigne will patronise the entertainment. The Circus company conclude their season here on Wednesday, and after showing on Friday, Saturday, and Sunday afternoon at Meeno, they proceed to the Hanoi Exposition.

## S. ANDREW'S BALL PRACTICE DANCE.

The last practice dance for S. Andrew's Ball was held last night and was largely attended. As before, it was supplied by the Sherwood Foresters' regimental band and the pipe music by Piper J. E. Sinclair assisted by the pipemaster of the 33rd Burma. "Miss Diamond of Perth" and "Red of Tallock" (stratagem and red) were the tunes played by Piper Sinclair, who by the way will play all the pipe dance music at the ball on Friday. In the course of the evening and just when people were leaving the hall, Captain Anderson was treating a few of his friends to a game on the pipes. "Bonds and Gs" when without any warning a large piece of plaster fell from the ceiling, striking the pipe and inflicting injuries which, though painful, will not prevent him, we hope, attending the ball. We understood that the "Scotch Dance" is to figure on the programme after the supper, a new and welcome departure at S. Andrew's Ball.

**NOTICE TO CORRESPONDENTS.**  
Queries and communications relating to the news columns should be addressed to THE EDITOR.  
Correspondents must forward their names and addresses with communications addressed to the Editor, not for publication, but as evidence of good faith.  
All letters for publication should be written on one side of the paper only.  
We do not accept responsibility for communications that have already appeared in other papers will be inserted.  
Orders for extra copies of DAILY PRESS should be sent before 11 a.m. on day of publication. After that hour the supply is limited. Only supplied for Cash.  
Telegraphic Address: PUNAS. Codes: A.B.C. G.H.E.D.  
P.O. Box, 35. Telephone No. 12

**BIRTH.**  
On the 14th November, the wife of E. F. Crows, of H.B.M.'s Consulate, Kobe, of a son.  
MARRIAGE.  
On the 22nd November, at St. John's Cathedral, Hongkong, WILLIAM FRANK LARLEY to EVELYN, eldest daughter of, ROBERT FRANKLIN, of Herts Hill, London.

**DEATHS.**  
On the 23rd November, at 7.15 a.m., at the Government Civil Hospital, Dr. CHUNG KISO U, aged 36 years, deeply regretted.  
On the 14th October, in England, ROBERT LARLEY, late of China, aged 82 years.

## The Daily Press.

HONGKONG OFFICE: 14, DES VOGES ROAD, 1.  
LONDON OFFICE: 131, MARK STREET, E.C.

Published on 25th November, 1902.

The question of Imperial defence is one that must necessarily attract a great deal of attention from all classes of the community in future, and is of course of the deepest interest to all British Colonies. It is a question beset with difficulties, and will require statesmanship and circumspection to place it on a footing satisfactory to the nation. No objection can be taken to the attitude of our present Prime Minister on the subject. He has accepted responsibility and has admitted that the matter cannot, as of old, be left to one or two departments acting separately to the great danger of the state and the confusion of our defensive policy and preparations. Mr. Balfour has also declared that the Government is fully alive to the difficulty of the problem which it means to meet and grapple with to the best of its ability. No one will for a moment doubt that Mr. Balfour was perfectly sincere in all he said, but something more than words will be required to satisfy the many thinking minds which are now studying the matter, and unfortunately the public has been put off in the past, far too often, by ministerial eloquence. First of all we must protest with all our strength against the pernicious doctrine attributed to be set up by Mr. Brodric, "that it is our duty to consider the



## "THE LADY OF OSTEND."

Laughter may aptly be described as the music of our lives, and for the song of laughter given to the world in *The Lady of Ostend*, Mr. P. C. Burnand, the author, has an undoubted claim on our gratitude. Best known as editor of *London Punch*, Mr. Burnand has nevertheless gained prominence in the literature of light comedy by the highly interesting production of his facile pen, and amongst these none ranks higher than that staged at the Theatre Royal last night by the Janet Waldorf Company. Although Sir Francis Burnand, to give the veteran journalist and playwright his due title, has for some years past followed the life rather of a literary recluse, his ability has in no way deteriorated, and in the play under review his old easy grip of humorous material, conjoined with the faculty of turning it to the best account, is seen to excellent advantage.

Whilst it may not be said that the author has broken new ground in *The Lady of Ostend*, for in light comedy as in all other conceptions of the playwright a certain conventional line is observed, and usually as strictly followed, the story is distinguished by what may be termed a series of lucid progressions, which combine with the increasingly humorous situations and the pronounced types of the characters to provide capital entertainment. From the rise of the curtain and on unbrokenly to its fall, the drollery of the comedy is easily apparent to every one, and no mental strain is required to follow with exactitude the varying fortunes of the participants. It may reasonably be assumed that the mission of farcical comedy is to amuse without bewildering, and in *The Lady of Ostend* that mission is creditably achieved.

To glance for a moment at the pieces, which is one of three acts, the action takes place in the house of Mr. Dick Whortles, who, during a previous trip to Ostend, has been caught by the camera in a *fin-de-siècle* with an unknown lady on the beach. Impelled by fate, he subsequently takes his wife and mother-in-law to an exhibition of living pictures wherein this particular scene is presented as No. 9 on the card. The result, of course, may readily be imagined, for Mrs. Whortles and the mother-in-law recognise the portrait, and the inevitable trouble follows. As though the domestic atmosphere were not already sufficiently sultry, the husband of the unknown lady, a pugilist of unmistakable speech and temper, commences a furious quest for the original of the male figure in the picture, and the predicament in which Mr. Whortles finds himself strikes his friends as being extremely ludicrous, as of course it is—to all but the unhappy man himself. Amongst those who rejoice over his discomfort no one is more hilarious than the Baron de Longueville, whose triumph, however, is short-lived, for the succeeding picture on the cinematograph reveals himself sporting in the sea in company with Whortles's *acheroute*, whilst Mr. Carbury, Dick's father-in-law, discovers that he also has fallen a victim to the inquisitiveness of the apparatus. All these complications provide unlimited merriment for the audience, and the laughter that rang through the house found its echo when the enraged husband of the sickle lady of Ostend wreaks summary vengeance on the furniture in the Whortles's drawing-room, which he reduces to wreckage.

The bare outline of the story can convey only a faint idea of its current of interest, which was admirably maintained in the dramatization of the Janet Waldorf Company. Interest and close attention waited upon the performance throughout the entire evening, and the applause was continuous and hearty. As to the parts taken by the individual members of the Company, the impersonation of the Baron de Longueville in the capable hands of Mr. Norval McGregor, whose ability and versatility as an actor and telling "jest" in his portrayal of "the man with a rattling past," the nature of the part makes it a difficult one to depict, but Mr. McGregor's response to the demand made upon him was entirely satisfactory, and earned commendation on all hands. Those who have seen Miss Janet Waldorf as *Josephine* in *A Royal Deceit* need not be told that on the present occasion she at once impressed the spectators with a renewed sense of her powers by her appearance as *Dorothy Whortles*, a role in which she showed to decided advantage in a new line of dramatic enterprise—new, at least, to Hongkong theatre-goers. Throughout the play she acted just as we have come to expect her to act, and imparted to a comparatively colorless part an importance all its own. The adventures of the erring *Dick Whortles* were finely illustrated by Mr. William Fichett, and Mr. Wilson Forbes as ably represented *Joseph Carbury*, the father-in-law of Whortles, and an individual with a propensity for nocturnal roving. Mrs. Dow Carrier acted with distinction in the role of Mrs. Carbury, and imparted no small force to the action of the piece. The remark applies also to Miss Mildred York, who enjoyed only very fugitive opportunities but used them to the best advantage. The bustling *Toby Carritt*, the husband of the Lady of Ostend, lost none of his idiosyncrasies in his representation by Mr. Jean de Lacey, and the parts assigned to Miss Amy Stanley, Miss Edith Hayo, Mr. Arthur Eiton and Mr. St. Clair Bayfield had ample justice done them.

Regarding the scenery, the Company were in this respect more fortunate than in *A Royal Deceit*, when the limitations of the stage made themselves greatly felt. The scenery used in *The Lady of Ostend* admirably adapted to the accommodation of the theatre, and thus nothing was lost in scenic effect. Yesterday evening's was the first appearance the Company has made in this particular comedy, but despite that fact everything went with the smoothness of the proverbial mill-pond, and the audience, which quite filled the house

demonstrated its appreciation by the volume of its plaudits. A ballet was graciously danced during the evening, the music for which was composed by Mr. Hal. Lindsay Campbell, the able director of the orchestra.

*The Lady of Ostend* will be repeated to-night and on Wednesday night. On Thursday and Friday there will be no appearance of Miss Waldorf's Company, the theatre having been engaged previously for those evenings. On Saturday a great attraction will be offered in the production of Shakespeare's famous drama *Macbeth*. In this play Miss Waldorf will have a fine opportunity for displaying her ability in strong, emotional work, and its presentation will doubtless be looked forward to with great interest. The box plan for the piece will open on Friday.

## SUPREME COURT.

Monday, 24th November.

IN CRIMINAL JURISDICTION.

BEFORE HIS HONOUR A. G. WISE (PUNISH JUDGE).

CHARGE UNDER THE BANKRUPTCY ORDINANCE.

Luk Hang was charged with having committed an offence against the Bankruptcy Ordinance by quitting the Colony when a receiving order had been made against him in bankruptcy with intent to avoid service of the writ, and to defraud the creditors of the estate of the bankrupt. He pleaded not guilty, stating that he left the Colony on account of illness and not with intent to avoid the service of the writ.

The prosecution was conducted by Hon. Sir Henry S. Berkeley, Attorney-General, instructed by Mr. P. B. L. Bowley, Crown Solicitor; the accused was defended by Mr. M. W. Slade, barrister-at-law, instructed by Mr. E. J. Grist, of Messrs. Wilkinson & Grist, solicitors.

The following jury was empanelled:—Messrs. E. J. Linnard, A. M. R. Fyfe, J. A. A. Cordeiro, B. W. Houghton, J. T. Prestage, V. C. da Rocha, E. G. da Aquino.

G. H. Wakeman, official receiver, gave evidence concerning the examination of the accused. When he asked him as to one of the meetings of creditors why he left the Colony, he replied that he ran away to avoid arrest.

Li Tak Yuen, the interpreter on that occasion, corroborated.

This closed the evidence.

Mr. Slade said he would not call any witnesses. Before addressing the jury he raised a point of law that when the defendant left the Colony no receiving order had been made against him. The words of the section of the Ordinance under which this prosecution had been instituted were "any person against whom a receiving order is made."

His Lordship overruled the objection.

Mr. Slade then addressed the jury, stating that the defendant had actually returned to the Colony to undergo his examination in bankruptcy.

The jury without retiring, unanimously returned a verdict of not guilty against the accused, who was accordingly discharged.

The Court rose.

HONGKONG LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.

A meeting of the Council will be held tomorrow, at 3 p.m.

BUSINESS.

1. Financial Minutes. (Nos. 62 and 63.)

2. Questions:—(1) Whether the Government intend to require all officers above the status of Unpaid Cadets to be guaranteed by an approved Guarantors Society?

(2) Would the Director of Public Works give some explanation of the inequalities of the intermittent system—why very many houses, which ought to get the full supply for the advertised period, get little or no water and even that little at a most insufficient pressure? Also, what steps, if any, are being taken to remedy this state of affairs?

3. Questions:—Will the Honorable Director of Public Works inform the Council—

(1) What works are now actually in progress in connection with the scheme for increasing the water supply of the Colony at Tai Tam?

(2) What will be the addition to the water supply of the Colony from these works when they are completed and what quantity will be available from them during the winter of next year, in the event of there being at least a normal rainfall during next year?

ORDERS OF THE DAY.

1. First reading of a Bill entitled An Ordinance to amend The Widows and Orphans Pension Fund Amendment Ordinance, 1902 (No. 12 of 1902).

2. First reading of a Bill entitled An Ordinance to amend The Rating Ordinance, 1901.

3. First reading of a Bill entitled An Ordinance to amend The Chinese Hospital Incorporation Ordinance, No. 3 of 1870.

4. First reading of a Bill entitled An Ordinance to amend The Public Health Ordinance, No. 5 of 1902.

5. Second reading of the Bill entitled An Ordinance to amend the Law relating to the Public Health and to Building.

6. Second reading of the Bill entitled An Ordinance to amend the Law relating to Employers and Servants.

7. Second reading of the Bill entitled An Ordinance with reference to Collisions between Junks and Ships.

8. Second reading of the Bill entitled The New Territories Titles Ordinance.

9. Second reading of the Bill entitled An Ordinance relating to the Naturalisation of Aliens.

C. CLEGG, Acting Clerk of Councils.

N.B.—A meeting of the Finance Committee will be held immediately after the Council.

LATEST STEAMER MOVEMENTS.

The M.M. steamer *Tonkin*, with the next French mail, left Singapore yesterday, at 5 a.m. for this port via Saigon.

The C.P.R. steamer *Empress of India* arrived at Nagasaki at 7.30 a.m. on the 24th inst., and left again at 5 p.m. same day for Kobe, where she is due to arrive at 9 p.m. today.

The P.M. steamer *Korea*, with mails, &c., arrived at Yokohama on the 24th inst., and will sail from Yokohama on the 25th inst. for Hongkong, via usual ports of call.

The N.P. steamer *Victoria* left Victoria for Yokohama on the 24th inst.

The S.K. steamer *Nippon Maru* arrived in New York on the 19th inst.

The N.Y.K. steamer *Kumano Maru* (Australia Line) left Manila for this port on the 23rd inst., and is expected here tomorrow.

The Boston steamer *Shamrock* left Yokohama for Victoria, B.C., and Tacoma on the 23rd inst.

## ENQUIRY INTO COLLAPSES OF HOUSES.

KOWLOON CITY ROAD.

At the Magistracy yesterday afternoon the enquiry into the fatal house collapse in Kowloon City Road was resumed before Mr. F. A. Hazleland, Police Magistrate and a common jury. Mr. P. B. L. Bowley, Crown Solicitor, appeared for the Crown; Mr. H. W. Looker, solicitor, represented the architects (Messrs. Leigh & Orange), and Mr. C. D. Wilkinson, solicitor, the contractors (the Loong Cheong firm).

P. T. H. Hewett, building surveyor attached to the K.C.E., said he had been in Hongkong since June, 1901. He had inspected these houses in Kowloon City Road on the 2nd September, since when he had been there many times. Generally the materials of the houses on the two lots appeared to be good. The bricks were of uniform size. They were carried, he thought, by the fact that they had been got from different people; if different kinds were mixed the construction would be bad, because the bonding could not be properly carried out. The lime used was ordinary shell lime, as used in Hongkong. Such lime was not good. The red earth used in the mortar of the houses was good, probably taken from the hill at the back of the houses. The second samples on 30th September or 1st October. These samples were given to Mr. Dennis and afterwards analysed. It was very fair mortar. He did not agree with the theory that the collapse was caused by the softening of the mortar by rain. He thought the external walls of Nos. 30 and 32 should have been thicker, having regard to their length. In building a wall it should be carried up at a uniform rate of progress; one part should not be advanced considerably higher than another; the usual specification in Hongkong in this respect was that the wall should be carried up to the height of the building, unevenly would be that the wall would not settle equally and weak places would appear. It took two or three months for a wall to settle. Broadly speaking it was impossible in Hongkong to get a wall built uniformly. The witness went on to give evidence concerning the string courses in the wall. He was of opinion that both the string courses and the corbelling should be of cement mortar. The corbelling of the walls was generally, it did not always, bad, owing to faulty construction and bad workmanship. There was no provision in the Ordinances for the employment of cement mortar, but there was such a proposal in the new Building Bill.

Mr. Looker objected to the witness dealing in his evidence with a Bill which was not yet passed and which might yet have amendments made upon it.

Mr. Bowley said he took it that one of the objects of the enquiry was to find out what should be done to improve matters in this connection.

His Worship remarked that the Court was enquiring how the men who were killed lost their lives and whether anybody should be punished. The witness further stated, in continuation of his evidence, that the spaces from face to face of the walls ought also to be in cement mortar. To make good jobs of the walls they should have been filled with cement, especially when brick on edge on one side of the wall met brick flat on the other, rendering proper bonding quite impossible for at least five courses in height. With regard to the specification for these houses, he would not condemn it because it was not provided that these courses should be in cement. He was not prepared to say that before the collapse he would have done better than anybody else. In view of recent experience he did not think that the specifications were sufficient. The corbelling of the party wall was omitted to allow the passage of a stair. From the whole of these observations he was of opinion that the outer walls of Nos. 30 and 32 were weak from construction of the corbelling and string courses and this in effect gave one of these walls an outward tendency; this outward tendency was aided by a similar tendency in the party wall owing to the corbelling being omitted on one side only; these tendencies gradually developed between the building and the day of the collapse and materially contributed to it, the immediate cause being the typhoon wind.

The enquiry was adjourned until Thursday, when Mr. Hewett's cross-examination will take place.

## THE DEVELOPMENT OF CHINA.

According to the *Yokohama Specie Bank*, the Japanese Government has under consideration the following extensive scheme in China:—

1. To establish a leather-manufacturing and woolen cloth-weaving industry at Tientsin to contract for the supply of arms, ammunition, leather goods, boots and shoes, blankets and woolen cloth necessary for a reformed Chinese army.

2. To establish at Tientsin a mint and a printing office to contract for the reformed currency and to supply other goods required in the remodelling of the financial administration.

3. To contract for the repair of roads, the construction of waterworks, railways, and telephone lines in the cities of Tientsin and Peking, rendered necessary in the improvement of the public communication.

4. To contract for the publication of school text-books and others required for the reform of the educational system.

5. To establish commercial museums at Tientsin and Peking, gradually extending them to the important cities in the interior.

According to the *Yokohama*, it is proposed to establish a syndicate of Japanese and Chinese to finance and carry out these ambitious schemes. The proposed Japan-China Bank will also give financial assistance in this development. A great effort will be made to increase the intercourse, social and commercial, between Japan and China.

## THE "TERRIBLE'S" IMPROVED GUN-MOUNTINGS.

It looks as if the lumber heap is to be the final resting place of the famous improved gun-mountings belonging to H.M.S. *Terrible*, says a London journal. "Shut out of the ship" is the sailors' method of describing their fate. The guns have been taken away during the past day or two, and the heavy wooden mountings now lie derelict at Portsmouth near the ship, with their proud motto, "From Lady Smith to Peking," half obscured by dockyard mud. Until a little while ago the mountings attracted considerable public attention. It was through their agency that the guns that saved Ladysmith were got there in the nick of time. After doing duty against the Boers the mountings were transferred to China, where they again did useful service in carrying long guns round the Great Wall. Now it seems not unlikely that they will be reduced to the wood, or meet with some equally undignified fate. If preserved, they would form a monument to the seamanship and resource of the British naval officer, and may be some town ambitious of possessing war trophies will beg them of the Admiralty.

## IMMIGRATION TO THE UNITED STATES.

COMMISSIONER'S ANNUAL REPORT.

The annual report of the Commissioner of Immigration was made public at Washington, on the 18th ult. It shows that of the 647,073 immigrants who arrived in the United States during the last fiscal year 466,369 were males and 180,704 females. Of the entire number of arrivals Italy supplied 175,876, an increase of 42,373 over 1901; Austria-Hungary, 171,031, an increase of 58,599; and Russia 107,341, an increase of 22,000. Most European countries showed an increase, but there was a fall, as well in the arrivals from Ireland amounting to 1,421, the total from that country being 29,138. The figures concerning Asiatic immigration show a decrease from China of 810, the total being 1,649, and an increase from Japan, of 9,000, the total being 14,374, or 176 per cent. Of the entire number arriving 162,158 were unable to read or write, but 74,063 were under 14 years of age.

Commenting upon this circumstance, Commissioner Sargent says: "It can be roughly estimated from the foregoing figures how valuable in admitting aliens would be a reading test, as that advanced during the recent session of Congress, which would not be applied to children under 15 and adults over 50."

The total number of aliens refused permission to land was 4,574, or about two-thirds of 1 per cent. of the total arrivals. Of these 3,644 were paupers, 709 had loathsome diseases, 9 were convicts, and 275 contract labourers. Referring to the rejection of those coming under contract, the report says: "Although immigration has been largely increased, the number refused admission during the year as alien contract labourers has decreased of the persons who they barred upon similar grounds last year from 275 to 274. The assumption which might naturally arise from these figures, that successful administration had checked attempts to gain access to the United States in disregard of its provisions, is inadmissible, in view of the frequency of the complaints which have reached the Bureau on this subject during the year under consideration."

"These figures show conclusively the necessity for legislation which shall inflict upon the transportation lines which have the means of protecting themselves from the effect of a violation of the law by competent medical inspection at the port of foreign embarkation, a punishment proportionate to the risk to the health of the American people by bringing diseased aliens to ports of this country. The present penalty is the mere return of the diseased alien at the cost of the offending line."

Speaking of the reinforcement of the Chinese Exclusion Laws, Mr. Sargent says many abuses have been encountered, and he enumerates some of them. "An additional year of experience in the enforcement of the Chinese Exclusion Laws has served to confirm the opinions expressed in the last annual report as to the gravity of the difficulties inherent in the character of the Mongolian race to be met and surmounted. It is but just to say that other causes supplement the steady resistance of the Chinese to the requirements both of the laws of the Treaty of 1894. The transportation lines, whose financial interests are affected are largely of great importance, and in some cases exhibit a lack of sympathy with the administration of the law, which would find its proper expression only before the legislative branch of the Government. The chief obstructions, however, to the efficient enforcement of the law arise on the one hand from the unscrupulous character of some American citizens and others who find large profits in smuggling Chinese of various classes across our land boundaries, and on the other, from the constant interference of these persons in our own country whose consciousness of their exalted purposes in relation to the moral attainment of the Chinese appears to their ample justification sometimes for the disregard of the law, and often for the endeavor to have its provisions waived as unimportant in comparison with their own designs."

Recommendations that authority be given for the appointment of agents to administer the Chinese Exclusion Laws, instead of leaving their enforcement to the Collectors of Customs, and also that competent special officers be stationed at Hongkong and Canton for the enforcement of the laws in China, instead of the American Consuls in China. For many cases, he says, the identification of Chinese persons returning to the United States from China is left by the Consuls to the Chinese servants. Mr. Sargent also expressed his conviction of the importance of an efficient administration of the laws, particularly those in relation to the exclusion of Chinese.

"MR. COOK."

Lord Kitchener is to be England for India on the 7th ult. He will travel from London by the eleven o'clock boat-train from Victoria. It was a simple but effective dodge by which the General escaped the embarrassing attentions of curious people at Victoria Station. Even the railway officials did not know that he would travel by the eleven o'clock boat-train. All they knew relevant to the truth was that a carriage was reserved for "Mr. Cook." To whom should he have occurred that to an important personage, the General, and presented itself as the natural corrective or variant of "Kitchener"? Yes, so it is. At five minutes to eleven Kitchener walked on to the platform unaccompanied. He was in a grey tweed suit, dark overcoat, and bowler hat, and carried an umbrella and a book. So far as appearances went he might have been making a week-end trip out of town. He passed quite unnoticed through the passengers' section and walked down the platform, and presently reached the first-class compartment labelled "Mr. Cook." Here were standing two or three gentlemen, with whom he shook hands. They included Sir George Arthur, Colonel Hamilton, and Captain Maxwell. He stood chatting with them for two or three minutes; his face occasionally lighting up with a smile at some remark. Meanwhile a group of passengers and railway officials, attracted by the tall, soldierly figure, had gathered round. Presently the bell rang, and Lord Kitchener shook hands with his friends and stepped into his carriage. A few seconds later the train started. Half-a-dozen people on the platform raised their hats. Lord Kitchener saluted in response, and immediately afterwards was out of sight. That was how a great soldier said goodbye. He got a cheer, however, as he went on board the steamer at Dover.

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Commissaire Général de l'Exposition de Hanoi, 1300.

## GURKHAS AS MOUNTED MEN

AN EXPERIMENT IN CHINA.

Colonel F. M. Randall, commanding 1st Battalion, 4th Gurkhas, writes from Simla to the *Pioneer*:

There has just been sent to me a cutting consisting of a letter to the *Pioneer* on the question of Gurkhas as Mounted Infantry. Your correspondent says: "I lay it down without the slightest fear of contradiction, that there never has been one single case in the whole history of the Gurkha Army, or of the Gurkha contingent in the Indian Army, when the Gurkhas have been used or could have been successfully used as a Mounted Infantryman." That a little more than a year ago I should have entirely agreed with his remarks, but I have been compelled by personal experience to alter my opinion. Whilst serving in China we received orders to train fifty Gurkhas as Mounted Infantry. I will not conceal the fact that I was utterly averse to doing so, as I was of the same opinion as your correspondent, and believed that the Gurkhas could never be turned into a Mounted Infantryman. But I was given no option in the matter. Fifty Chinese ponies were sent to me with Chinese saddles and bridles, and I was ordered to do my best. Now any one who knows the Chinese pony will understand and readily acknowledge that I could not have well had more supposing animals with which to teach Gurkhas to ride—vicious, obstinate, and with no months to speak of. In my despair I sent two of my officers to a *soothie* of Cossacks quartered not far off, and the Russian officers of the *soothie* gave us a number of useful hints. Then an officer in the 3rd Gurkha Cavalry most kindly and generously gave up a lot of his spare time to help us. He put the Gurkhas through a simple course of riding school, taught them to sit their ponies, groom them and shoe them. I did not want more because, after all, Mounted Infantry are simply infantry who can be rapidly transported long distances to spots where Infantry are required to fight, and who can be used for scouting purposes in country suitable for a mounted man.

At first my Gurkhas would climb up the part side of a pony and fall off on the other side. They were taught to hold on to the mane and to lean to stick on; they learned to manage and look after their ponies; they were able to ride over broken country, and always took part in our bi-weekly eight to ten hours field days, when I invariably had a skeleton army in a concealed and unknown position which the Mounted Infantry had to find, or part of my Mounted Infantry were themselves concealed, and were taught to make use of the folds in the ground to harass an advance, or retirement, or a column on the march. Galloping up to a given spot they would dismount, and come into action, one man holding four ponies; when ordered to do so they would remount, and gallop across country to some fresh position.

In a short time not only did my fifty Gurkhas become excellent Mounted Infantry, but they sat their ponies well, and in a soldierly and smart manner. They liked the work, and my whole regiment intimated that they wished to become Mounted Infantry. So well did they learn to manage these brutes of China ponies that two Gurkhas, mounted barebacked, would drive the whole fifty ponies in an unbroken mob out to graze in the country. They let them graze like sheep, then up and drove the mob back to stables. When the General inspected my regiment at Shauhsikwan, he told us our Gurkhas Mounted Infantry were the best he had in China. Every regiment of the British Contingent had at that time at least 50 Mounted Infantry. Possibly he may have said the same to the other regiments; that I do not know; I only know he said it to us.

I may as well state the opinion of the German and French officers. They did not tell my officers or me their opinion, but they stated

it to officers outside my regiment who had nothing to do with us, so what they said may be regarded as "unsolicited testimonials." The Germans remarked that they considered the Gurkha Mounted Infantry were much better than their own. The French said they wanted to start Mounted Infantry themselves (they had none at Shauhsikwan while we were there) and wished to send their men to be taught by my Gurkhas.

I believe there have been one or two other instances of Gurkhas being successfully used as Mounted Infantry, notably the 3rd Gurkhas, who I have been told, had admirable Mounted Infantry in Burma. But I speak from hearsay and not as an eye-witness. Now I hope by object in writing this letter will not be misunderstood, and that no one will do me the injustice of supposing I wish to advertise my regiment. Your correspondent stated there had never been one single case of Gurkhas being used as Mounted Infantry. He wrote very strongly on the subject, and appeared honestly to desire information on this point, and suggested that Officers Commanding Gurkha Regiments should be appealed to for their opinion.

My object, therefore, in replying to his letter is simply and solely to give him such information as I could, and I have merely stated facts which I can assure him are not exaggerated. He may say, "Ah, but your Mounted Infantry were never used for." True, but I do not think a Gurkha will fight any the worse because he has learnt to ride; the fact that he has a pony standing a little way behind him under cover will not affect his shooting. The fact remains that he has been fully and successfully trained as a Mounted Infantryman, and if he can be taught to ride and manage China ponies, he can be taught to ride and manage any kind of ponies. I may add that the country around Shauhsikwan was partly mountainous, partly hilly and broken foothills, partly undulating plains.

TELEPHONE No. 135.

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inst.  
Business:—To pass the Programme of the  
Race Meeting to be held in February next.  
By Order,  
J. GRANT,  
Secretary.  
Hongkong, 21st November, 1902. [3090]

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Hongkong, 3rd January, 1902. [123]

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Hongkong, 7th October, 1902. [2679]

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**GODOWNS No. 536, Des Vaux Road,**  
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Apply to—  
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Splendid View of the Harbour.  
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THE WAY SOLDIERS WERE  
TREATED

By THE REV. E. J. HARDY, M.A.,  
CHAPELAIN TO THE FORCES.

Mr. Thomas Atkins is made a good deal of  
now, but there was a time when, in common  
with his brother Jack of the sea, he was horribly  
treated. Indeed, service in both our Navy and  
Army used to be little less than slavery. Jack  
was captured by the press-gang and flogged  
almost to death if he attempted to escape, and  
Tommy was generally enlisted after being made  
drunk, or allowed to go into the Army if he had  
committed any offence instead of being sent to  
prison. Many became soldiers not from any  
liking for the profession, but because they were  
starved into it. This is soon by the nickname  
that still attaches to the West Riding Regi-  
ment. They are called the "Haver-Cake Lads,"  
because it was the custom for the sergeants  
when on the march to carry haver-cakes  
(which was Yorkshire for oat-cakes—haver  
being oats) on the point of their swords, in order  
to entice the hungry to enlist at the time of  
the Peninsular War. Towards wild, rough  
characters, enlisted in these ways, anything like  
kindness or even humanity was considered a  
dangerous weakness. During the great war with  
France our soldiers fought like heroes and were  
treated like convicts. They were fed, paid,  
clothed and housed in a way that seems to us  
now almost incredible. At the time to which we  
refer our soldiers had only one official recognised  
meal in the day—dinner. The celebrated politi-  
cian and writer, William Cobbett, began life  
as a private soldier, and taught himself to read  
by the light of the guardroom fire. He tells us  
that a hungry man had to be, that once, when with  
great care he had put by a halfpenny or penny to  
treat himself to a red herring and someone stole  
the coin, he actually cried with vexation—and  
starvation. The pay at that time was about  
fourpence a day. There were no libraries, recrea-  
tion rooms, or any kind of innocent amuse-  
ments in barracks. And it was even worse in  
foreign stations.

Beside the monotony of the soldiers' duties,  
the discomforts of barracks were great. The  
cubic space allowed by regulation was 300 ft.  
per man; now it is 600. The barracks-rooms  
were low, badly warmed, and without light after  
sunset, and all washing was done in them, for  
there were no ablution-rooms or laundries. It  
seems to us almost incredible, but it is a fact  
that, until the year 1840, the wives of soldiers  
"on the strength" lived, almost with an excep-  
tion, in the barracks-rooms among the men.  
There were generally a married couple in each  
room, and to these custom assigned the corner  
farthest from the door. No matter what the  
number of the family might be, they were  
allowed but two single beds and two men's space.  
The only pretence at privacy provided was the  
six-foot high canvas screening, which the  
husband would put round his matrimonial  
bower. In these days of enlightenment for life.  
Discharges were granted as a reward for  
good conduct, and were ordered by court-martial  
in extreme cases of misconduct; but if you were  
not very good or very bad, or medically unfit,  
you could not get away at all. Desertion was  
the principal crime, which neither shooting nor  
flogging up to 2,000 lashes could prevent.  
The clothes of our soldiers were as uncomfor-  
table as they were unworkmanlike and ridiculous.  
—George IV. meddled much in military mil-  
linery. He was strong on the question of "fit,"  
and often said that while "a seam might be  
permitted, a wrinkle was unpardonable." The  
fashion then ran towards great height in the  
head-dresses of soldiers; indeed, they became  
so excessively tall that the sentry-boxes about  
Royal Palaces had to have their roofs raised.  
And there was early as much thought  
given to the hair of the men under these  
monstrous erections. Wigs were once worn by  
soldiers, and these were followed by an arrange-  
ment of the men's own hair, generally in the  
form of a pigtail. Privates going on guard had  
their hair dressed over night, and when greased  
with a tallow candle, thickened with flour, and  
tightly tied according to the fashion in club tail,  
maccaroni tail, or pigtail, they were compelled  
to sleep lying on their faces, as any other  
position would disarrange their coiffures. One  
man actually got 500 lashes because his pigtail  
fell off accidentally upon parade.

Now the names of private soldiers wounded,  
killed, or missing on active service are telegraphed  
home by the generals as carefully as the names  
of officers; but there was a time when their  
names were never published, and when, if  
they served a campaign, they got no medal or  
any sort of reward. Then only the "superior  
officers" were thought to be deserving of medals.  
There was a time when the Army was ruled by  
the stick and the "cat." Officers and sergeant-  
majors used to carry rattans and apply them  
apparently at will. A newspaper of the time,  
whether seriously or not, describes a drummer-  
flogging a private, the sergeant-major beating  
the drummer with a rattan to make him flog  
harder, and the adjutant doing the same to the  
sergeant-major. So hardened did the soldiers  
become that one of them went to the captain of  
his company and asked him to get him a flogging  
because he was the only one in the company  
who had had the experience, and he could not  
stand the chaff of his comrades in consequence.  
I have seen in the handwriting of W. Lington an  
order for a soldier to receive "on one day (June  
10, 1816) 300 lashes for 'uttering' a seditious  
two-line piece to a woman at Versailles. So  
late as 1825 a man was sentenced to 1,300  
lashes, and received 120. —The Graphic

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demands that you be on the alert to see that you  
get Painkiller (Perry Davis') when you ask for  
it; some dealers will try and persuade you to  
take something else, claimed to be just as good;  
insist upon getting Painkiller, the remedy  
which has been the world's family doctor for  
60 years; it never fails to stop diarrhoea,  
griping pains in the stomach or bowels,  
dysentery, etc. [257-14]

SHOOTING ON THE CHINA  
STATION.

We take the following paragraph from the  
Naval and Military Record of the 23rd ult.:

The Hongkong Navy League have offered  
£50 to Admiral Sir Cyrrian Bridge, to be distri-  
buted in prizes to the best gun's crews on the  
China station, and although the offer has been  
referred to the Admiralty, we need be at no  
pains to guess the answer that will be given.  
We publish in another column the prize firing  
returns on that station for 1902, which we have  
received from our Hongkong correspondent, and  
the figures clearly show the keenness of the  
gunners on the station. Parenthetically we may  
remark that nothing could be more faithful than  
the effort on the part of the Admiralty to  
suppress these returns or to regard them as  
confidential, while the firing on the China  
station this year has been so good that the with-  
holding of the information from the public  
would be a positive injustice. Out of seventeen  
ships that competed no less than eight made  
more than 40 per cent. of hits to rounds fired,  
and two made over 60 per cent. —The Abdon  
appears in the next eight; and as this was her  
first year's competition the result, if not ideal,  
was certainly creditable. The percentage of  
hits to rounds fired is not the best criterion in  
action, but it is a safe criterion in target practice.

The next test, no doubt, is the number of hits  
per gun per minute; but we publish the returns  
as we have received it, and by comparing it  
with the figures of last year we are able to  
arrive at a sound conclusion as to the progress  
that has been made. In 1901 the *Ocean*, with  
her 12 in guns, made 14 hits for 26 rounds; in  
1902 she made 17 for 25. In 1901 she made 64  
hits for 115 rounds with her 6 in guns; in 1902  
she made 117 hits for 163 rounds. We thus  
see a slightly more rapid firing with the 12 in,  
and a very much more rapid firing with the 6 in,  
and in both cases the percentage of hits to  
rounds fired has gone up, so that the mean of  
the two types of gun gives a total of 68.88 hits  
for every 100 rounds fired. The *Glory* was  
neither so rapid nor so accurate as her sister,  
the *Ocean*, but she compares favourably with her  
last year's results. In 1901, with her 12 in guns,  
she got 17 hits for 28 rounds, and in 1902 the  
same number of hits for 21 rounds. But whereas  
in 1901 she made 46 hits for 702 rounds with her  
6 in guns, in 1902 she made 89 for 115. Her  
percentage of hits to rounds fired has, therefore,  
gone up from 45.09 with this particular weapon  
to 63.56, and her mean percentage with both  
types of gun is 51.45. The *Albatross* was very slow  
with her 12 in guns, making only 11 rounds for  
four hits, but with her 6 in guns she got through  
117 rounds and made 57 hits, or a percentage of  
48.72. It will thus be seen that the competition  
among the battleships on the station has an  
exceedingly healthy tone, of which neither the  
Admiralty nor the public need be ashamed.

When we come to the cruisers we again see  
marks of progress arising out of the wholesome  
spirit of emulation. In 1901 the *Talbot*, with  
her 6 in guns, made ten hits for 37 rounds, or a  
percentage of 27.02; in 1902 she made 25 hits  
for 40 rounds, or a percentage of 62.5. In 1901,  
with her 4.7 in guns, she made 18 hits for 67  
rounds; in 1902 she made 46 hits for 73 rounds,  
the percentage going up from 26.86 to 63.  
Here the rapidity of fire was increased, and the  
percentage of hits more than doubled. The  
*Blenheim's* progress in not less remarkable. In  
1901 her 9.2 in guns made five hits for 17 rounds,  
or a percentage of 29.41; in 1902 they made nine  
hits for 17 rounds, or a percentage of 52.94. It will  
here be observed that there was no improvement  
in the rapidity of fire but the distinct improve-  
ment in the marksmanship was as 9 to 5. No  
less satisfactory are her returns with regard to  
the 6 in gun. For whereas in 1901 she made 24  
hits for 82 rounds, or a percentage of 29.26 hits  
to rounds fired, in 1902 she made 50 hits for 84  
rounds, or a percentage of 59.52. The close  
similarity of the number of rounds fired in the  
two consecutive years with the enormous im-  
provement in marksmanship throws an interest-  
ing light on the character of the training, for  
while there has been no appreciable increase in  
the rapidity of fire the quality of the marks-  
manship has exactly doubled.

The *Terride* went to her prize-firing this  
year in a gale of wind, but the task was not  
shirked, as it was considered desirable to as-  
certain what the men behind the guns could do  
under such circumstances as might occur in  
actual war. In 1901 her 9.2 in guns fired 22  
rounds for 14 hits, giving a percentage of  
63.63; this year she made only seven hits for  
18 rounds, or a percentage of 38.89. In  
1901 her 6 in guns fired 128 rounds for 102  
hits; in 1902 149 rounds for 66 hits,  
thus bringing her percentage down from 79.68  
to 60.55. Her rapidity and accuracy of fire  
were, therefore, both lowered, but as her mean  
percentage with both types of guns was 49.71,  
she approximated the ideal minimum of 50 per  
cent. The little *Hamble*, though she did not  
do as well as last year, again showed the fallacy of  
the popular idea that good gunnery is negligible  
quantity in a small ship. In 1901 her 4 in  
guns made 13 hits for 22 rounds, or a percentage  
of 59.09; and in 1902 she made 12 hits for 25  
rounds, or a percentage of 48. Her improved  
rapidity of fire has thus been paid for by a slight  
loss of efficiency, but the figures here again show

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